



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/005,493 | 11/02/2001 | Durga Prasad Satapathy | 31838 | 7989 |

33272 7590 04/18/2006

SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L.P.
6391 SPRINT PARKWAY
MAILSTOP: KSOPHT0101-Z2100
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66251-2100

EXAMINER

TRAN, PHILIP B

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2155

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/005,493

Examiner

Philip B. Tran

Applicant(s)

SATAPATHY ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/2/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date Attached.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Philip B. Tran
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mollon (Reg. No. 31,123), the undersigned, on April 13, 2006. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 and 17-21 have been canceled.

Claims 9 and 15 have been amended.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Currently Amended) A system operable to represent a user of a plurality of message mediums and to independently respond to a person wishing to communicate with the user via an unattended one of said message mediums, the system comprising:

a plurality of interface agents each coupled to a respective message medium and each operable to detect an unattended message received from the person, convert the unattended message into a written request, append the request with an identifier for identifying the person wishing to communicate with the user , and relay a result to the person;

an authenticator operable to match the identifier with one of a plurality of known records, thereby authenticating the person;

a classifier operable to create, store, and retrieve a classification associated with each record;

a command creator operable to convert the request into a database query;

an expert system operable to modify the query by applying a collection of rules;

a database operable to store information relating to the user; and

an output action generator operable to access the database, execute the query thereby generating the result based on the information in the database, and relay the result to the interface agents.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Currently amended) A system operable to represent a user of a message medium and to independently respond to a message received from a person wishing to communicate with the user when the message medium is unattended by the user, the system comprising:

an interface agent operable to detect an unattended spoken message received from the person, convert the spoken message into a written request, generate a voice signature based upon the spoken message, append the request with an identifier **for identifying the person wishing to communicate with the user**, and convert a result into a verbal response;

an authenticator operable to match the identifier with one of a plurality of known records, thereby authenticating the person;

a classifier operable to create, store, and retrieve a classification associated with each record;

a command creator operable to convert the request into a database query;

an expert system operable to modify the query by applying a collection of rules;

an output action generator operable to execute the query generating and relaying the result to the interface agent; and


a database operable to store information which is accessed by the output action generator through executing the query.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. Claims 9-16 are allowable over the prior art of record.

4. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Appeal Brief filed on 02 February 2006 with respect to the amended claim limitations point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip B. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Philip B. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2155
April 13, 2006